

Amherst Street -- Robert Long House
101 North Washington Street
Winchester
Virginia

HABS No. VA-694-A

HABS
VA,
35-WIN,
7-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
VA
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7-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

AMHERST STREET - - ROBERT LONG HOUSE

HABS No. VA-694-A

Location: 101 North Washington Street (northwest corner of Amherst and Washington Streets), Winchester, Virginia

Present Owner: Ruth Farley Massey

Present Occupant: Owner

Present Use: Private residence.

Statement of Significance: One of a group of well-preserved historic buildings extending for approximately one block on Amherst Street; a plain house of the mid nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1. Dates of erection: Around 1850. The reasons for this dating are the following. In 1842 and 1846 Robert Long II, one of five children of Robert Long I, acquired by deeds the inherited interests of Thomas Long, another child of Robert Long I. Thomas had previously acquired the interest of Anne Long Collins, another child of Robert Long I. Therefore, the total of \$270 paid for the interests conveyed by the 1842 and 1846 deeds represented 2/5 of the interest in the property. Thus the total value of the property would have been \$675. Now, for the year 1855, the first year for which tax records are available for Winchester, the property was given a valuation of \$800 for the house and \$400 for the lot. (Quarles, Homes, pp. 219,221; City Land Books 1855-69) It would appear that the increase during this time indicates construction on the lot. In addition, no portion of the present house resembles the kind of dwelling that would have been built during the time that Robert Long I owned the property--from 1785 to the time of his death. The present house is of wood frame construction, judging by the thickness of the exterior walls. The rooms are large and the ceilings quite high, characteristics that are found in houses of the mid nineteenth century, not of the late eighteenth century, in Winchester. Interior wooden door and window trim is of plain, flat members, unlike the beaded and molded work of the late eighteenth century here.

A deed dated 1811, however, indicates that there was a house on the property by then, probably built by Robert Long I after he bought the lot in 1785. The 1872 tax records may offer the explanation of what has happened to this structure. For that year the valuation for the house was increased to \$1000, and the explanation noted was: "200 added for old building removed and new one erected." The new one may have been the small, one-room wood-frame structure presently standing in the back yard, and the building removed may have been the original Robert Long I house (City Land Books 1870-76).

2. Architect: Not known.

3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title for the land on which the house stands.

1785 Deed. Not recorded. Referred to in 1826 deed, see below.
Robert Wood

to

Robert Long

(Note: The lot is No. 3 on the west side of Washington Street, in James Wood's Addition to Winchester. Lots numbered 1 through 6 in this addition were 107'4" wide and 138'6" deep (Quarles, Streets, p. 13)).

1811 Deed 13 Nov. 1811, recorded 6 April 1812 in Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Book No. 33, p. 460
Bevan Collins and Anne Long Collins, his wife, ~~whom~~ daughter and one of the heirs of Robert Long, deceased, of Frederick County

to

Thomas Long of Frederick County

For \$66.67, their right and interest "unto the house and lot in Winchester wherein said Thomas Long now lives and which said Robert Long deceased bought of Robert Wood deceased." (Note: with his own interest and with that of his sister conveyed by this deed, Thomas Long had a 2/5 interest in the property (Quarles, Homes, p. 219).)

1826 Deed 17 May 1828, recorded 5 June 1826 in Winchester, Virginia, Deed Book No. 6, p. 75
Nicholas Perry and Abigail, his wife; and Robert Hodgson, of Frederick County

to

Robert Long of the Borough of Winchester

For \$100, all their inherited interest "in a certain undivided house and Lot...being the same lot No. 3 which Robert Long deceased bought of Robert Wood deceased in the year 1785." (Note: As the result of this deed, Robert Long II obtained in interests of his sisters Abigail Long Perry and Susannah Long Hodgson, deceased, ~~his sisters~~, in their father Robert Long I's property. As a result Robert Long II had a 3/5 interest. (Quarles, Homes, pp. 219, 221).)

1842 Deed 2 Feb. 1842, recorded 12 Feb. 1842 in Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Book No. 70, p. 206
Abner Long and Lydia Long, his wife; William Long and Mary Long, his wife; Elizabeth Funkhouser; Amos Rittenour and Sarah Rittenour, his wife

to

Robert Long of Frederick County

For \$150, all their interest in lot No. 3, "their distributed share in their father Thomas Long's part of said lott No. 3," his interest being about half. (Note: In this deed and the following one the heirs of Thomas Long convey to Robert Long II the 2/5 interest in the property which he needs in order to have complete ownership.)

1846 Deed 14 Dec. 1846, recorded 24 Dec. 1846 in Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Book No. 75, p. 174
George R. Long and Hamit A. Long, his wife
to
Robert Long

For \$120, all their interest in lot No. 3, which is their distributed share of Thomas Long's part of the property, and his interest was approximately one half.

1846 Deed of Exchange 15 Dec. 1846, recorded 15 Dec. 1846 in Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Book No. 75, p. 176
Alexander S. Tidball and Millicent S. Tidball, his wife
to
Robert Long

In an exchange, Long gave Tidball a strip off of the western end of his lot 57 feet wide fronting on Amherst St. Thus Long's lot was shortened to 131'6". Tidball, who owned the lot on the north side of Long's, gave him a strip about fifty feet wide (width not stated in deed) and 131'6" in length. Both pieces of land are referred to as "a piece of ground." There is no mention of any building on the land dealt with in this deed.

1870 Deed 31 Oct. 1870, recorded 4 Sept. 1871 in Winchester, Virginia, Deed Book No. 13, p. 144
Thomas W. J. Long and Ellen E. Long, his wife
to

Mary R. A. Cooper, wife of John R. Cooper

For \$100, all their interests in lot No. 3, being the same interest inherited by Thomas W. J. Long from his father, Robert Long, deceased. The property was conveyed for Mary Cooper's use, free of her husband's debts, reserving her right to dispose of it by deed or will. (Note: Thomas W. J. Long and Mary R. A. Cooper were Robert Long II's only children, (Quarles, Homes, p. 221).)

1878 Deed 1 Jan. 1878, recorded 21 Jan. 1878 in Winchester, Virginia, Deed Book No 15, p. 340
John R. Cooper and Mary R. A. Cooper, his wife
to

Thomas J. Cooper

For \$600, the northern part of their property, fronting 52 feet on Washington Street and extending 131 feet back. (Note: This is north of their house. Thomas was their son (Quarles, Homes, p. 221).)

1916 Deed 15 May 1916, recorded 16 May 1916 in Winchester, Virginia, Deed Book No. 31, p. 574 and corrected on p. 582
T. J. Cooper and Cordelia Cooper, his wife
to

J. E. Cooper

For \$1125, their quarter interest. (Note: With this deed and the following one, J. E. Cooper had acquired a $\frac{3}{4}$ interest in the property, a total of his and his two brothers' quarter interests inherited from their mother, Mary R. A. Cooper. Nettie Ryan, the fourth child, held the remaining quarter interest (Quarles, Homes, p. 221).)

- 1916 Deed 11 Sept. 1916, recorded 19 Oct. 1916 in Winchester, Va., Deed Book No. 32, p. 197
L. F. Cooper and Mary Louise Cooper, his wife
to
J. E. Cooper
For \$1125, their 1/4 interest.
- 1916 Deed 28 Oct. 1916, recorded 6 Nov. 1916 in Winchester, Virginia, Deed Book No. 32, p. 232
J. E. Cooper and Nettie R. Ryan
to
Roland C. Ryan
For \$500, another part from the northern portion of the lot, just south of the part sold in 1878, and 45 feet on North Washington Street and 90 feet deep. (This is north of the house.)
- 1922 Will 26 Jan. 1915, reocrded 7 July 1922 in Winchester, Virginia, Will Book No. 8, p. 111
J. E. Cooper of Winchester, Virginia
to
Nettie R. Ryan, his sister
"All his interest in the home place."
- 1925 Will 21 Nov. 1923, recorded 20 July 1925 in Winchester, Virginia, Will Book No. 9, p. 61
Nettie R. Ryan
to
Lewis E. Ryan, Claude H. Ryan, Glenn N. Ryan, and Roland C. Ryan, her children, equal interests.
- 1925 Deed 27 July 1925, recorded 7 Aug. 1925 in Winchester, Virginia, Deed Book No. 44, p. 271
Claude Ryan, single
to
Roland Cooper Ryan and Lillian Love Ryan
For \$1, a 1/4 undivided share.
- 1925 Deed 14 Sept. 1925, reocrded 23 Sept. 1925 in Winchester, Virginia, Deed Book No. 44, p. 367
Glan R. Ryan and Mary Ryan, his wife;
Lewis E. Ryan and Helen Ryan, his wife
to
Roland Cooper Ryan and Lillian Love Ryan
For \$1, the 1/4 interests respectively of Glan and Lewis Ryan.
- 1929 Deed of Trust 15 Aug. 1929, reocrded 11 Sept. 1929 in Winchester, Virginia, Deed Book No. 49, p. 157
Roland C. Ryan and Lillian Love Ryan, his wife
to
Harry R. Kern and John M. Steck, Trustees
In trust to secure a dept of \$23,000 due to the Farmers and Merchants National Bank and Trust Co.

- 1933 Deed 28 April 1933, recorded 28 April 1933 in Winchester, Virginia, Deed Book No. 53, p. 164
J. M. Steck, H. R. Kern, and T. Russell Cather, Special Commissioners
to
Farmers and Merchants National Bank and Trust Co.
For \$6350. At this time the size of the lot is 61'6" on North Washington Street and 80 feet on Amherst Street.
- 1936 Deed 1 Dec. 1936, recorded 15 Dec. 1936 in Winchester, Virginia, Deed Book No. 57, 294
Farmers and Merchants National Bank and Trust Co.
to
Ruth Farley Massey
101 North Washington Street.

4. Notes on original plan and construction of building: Little information is known. The plan is an ell type of plan, which is very common in Winchester.

5. Notes on known alterations: The most striking alteration in the house is visible from the exterior, where its walls are stuccoed. There is an arched-pedimented porch at the front entrance that is inconsistent with the rest of the house. It appears that stuccoing and porch date from about 1915. A porch has been built along the north side of the front portion of the house, and this porch has been enclosed. This north porch looks like work of about the same time as the stuccoing. The extreme plainness of the interior woodwork may date from about the same time also. Evidence of earlier remodeling was not seen.

Quarles quotes a statement made by the late W. W. Glass about the house. Robert Long II kept a boarding school for young men, he says. He also mentions that the small building in the rear was used by John R. Cooper as a tailor shop (Quarles, Homes, p. 222). Although wrongly, in this writer's opinion, attributing the present house to Robert Long I, Glass's statement may explain the construction of a new building in 1872, noted under Item No. 1: this may have been Cooper's tailor shop. His statement may also explain the removal of the original house, which may have been used as the boarding school by Robert Long II. It may have been the log building referred to by Glass.

Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building

Robert Long II ran a boarding school for young men, presumably on his home property (Quarles, Homes, p. 222).

John R. Cooper was a tailor (Quarles, Homes, p. 222).

Sources of Information

Primary and unpublished sources.

Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Book No. 33, No. 70, No. 75.

Winchester, Virginia, City Land Books 1855-69, 1870-76.

----- Deed Book No. 6, No. 13, No. 15, No. 31, No. 32,
No. 44, No. 49, No. 53, No. 57

----- Will Book No. 3, No. 9.

Secondary and published sources.

Quarles, Garland R. The Story of One Hundred Old Houses in
Winchester, Virginia. 1967

----- The Streets of Winchester. No publication date.
A pamphlet.

Likely sources not yet investigated.

Property tax records of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, which the writer understands may be at the State Library in Richmond, Va.

Prepared by:

Wesley Ivan Shank, project historian, July 1972

PART II - ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - For drawings of the Robert Long House,
see AMHERST STREET (HABS No. VA-694) HABS VA, 35- WIN, C -